

**New Shoreham Deer Task Force Minutes**  
**March 9, 2015**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Present:** George Mellor, Paul Deane, Richard Stinson and Heather Hatfield. Also present, for the recording of minutes, was Millie McGinnes. Members Becky Ballard, Ruth Perfido and Bill McKernan were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by George Mellor.

**1. Public Input**

There was no public input.

**2. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2015**

Mr. Deane moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stinson and carried.

4 Ayes (Mellor, Deane, Hatfield, Stinson)                      0 Nays  
3 Absent (Perfido, Ballard, McKernan)

**3. Ongoing Business**

**a. Review and Authorization of Annual Report to the Town Council**

The annual report for 2014 was reviewed with a few changes made. No action was taken.

**b. Review of Vision Air and DEM Deer Census Numbers**

Mr. Mellor reviewed the census numbers from both Vision Air and the DEM. It was noted that the methods used were different: DEM flew transects, visually counted in those areas and extrapolated numbers based on those counts; Vision Air uses thermal infrared scanning. Mr. Deane noted that the numbers varied by a third even though they were performed only 2 days apart. He also stated he felt the DEM's numbers were inflated.

Mr. Stinson stated the Highways Department has picked up much fewer deer carcasses this year than previous years.

**c. Review of "Tail Plan" and DEM cull numbers**

It was reported that 346 tails were turned in. Mr. Mellor stated that the DEM is reporting only 316 total kills, noting it seems that kills are not being reported appropriately to the DEM by the hunters. Mr. Mellor will get an updated total from the DEM.

**d. Preliminary discussion of Long-Range Culling Plans**

Ms. Hatfield stated that the deer tail cull seemed to be very effective and proved to be safe. Mr. Stinson and Mr. Deane concurred.

Ms. Hatfield suggested having the police's tail check station check all deer to improve data collection in the future. Extending the archery season to encourage hunting in tighter areas was

suggested. Mr. Deane suggested finding ways to allow hunting in areas currently not permitted, as only a small percentage of the island is huntable.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **a. Proposal to change annual reporting period from calendar year to fiscal year**

Mr. Dean moved to change the reporting year from calendar year to fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Mr. Stinson seconded the motion and it carried.

4 Ayes (Mellor, Deane, Hatfield, Stinson)

0 Nays

3 Absent (Perfido, Ballard, McKernan)

##### **b. Discussion on collection and processing of cull data**

Mr. Mellor expressed his concern over the inaccuracies of the reported numbers and suggested gathering hunter names and reported kills from the police check station, the cards returned to the DEM and the deer tags sold to find discrepancies. He will contact the DEM to see if the card information can be made available.

**Next meeting: April 13, 2015, 7:30 p.m.**

Mr. Mellor moved to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Ms. Hatfield seconded the motion and it carried with all in favor.

Millie McGinnes  
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved: